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In the state in which Gregarina is found, it would probably hold a rank between the Trematoda and Trichina the lowest of the Nematoidea.

Nyctotherus,* a new genus of *Polygastrica*, allied to *Plesconia*.—Body ovate, dilated posteriorly, compressed anteriorly, granulated, longitudinally lined, with an apparent operculum covering its anterior half, and having a semi-circle of cilia just within its margin inferiorly and posteriorly. Centre of the operculated portion furnished with a large trapezoidal finely granular areola. Posterior part of the body with a short fissure passing inwards and downwards.

Nyctotherus velox.—Body white, ovate, conoidal, anterior margin rounded, obtuse; posteriorly acute. Posterior margin of the apparent operculum passing in a curved line upwards upon the middle of the body to within a short distance of the back, and furnished inferiorly with a point projecting backwards. With a line passing down from the back about the middle of the operculum of the trapezoidal areola, giving the part of the body anterior to this the appearance of a head. Trapezoidal areola, with curved sides, finely granular. Posterior fissure communicating with the exterior, just above the acute termination of the body, and passing inwards and downwards, resembles an anal aperture. Areolæ of the interior sarcous mass generally minute, one large and round pretty constantly to be observed at the inner termination of the posterior fissure.

Length from 1-254th to 1-80th in.; breadth from 1-320th to 1-254th in.

Habitat.—Commencement of the large intestine of *Julus marginatus*, often found in considerable numbers.

Remarks.—This genus is closely allied to *Plesconia*, but possess no appendages excepting the semi-circle of cilia, just within the edge of the apparent operculum.

The animal swims in water with great ease and grace. After being in this fluid some time, the external investment bursts, and allows the protrusion of globular masses of sarcous matter, as in *Leucophrys*, but not to such a great extent.

NOTE.—Since the above went to press, Dr. Leidy announced to the Academy that he had discovered two new species of the entophyte *Enterobrus*; one of them *E. spiralis*, 1-69th inch long, growing in the small intestine of *Julus pusillus*; the other, *E. attenuatus*, 1-24th inch long, growing more or less profusely with a second species of *Cladophytum*, *C. clavatum*, in the ventriculus of a coleopterous insect, *Passalus cornutus*. Thus has been established the law “that plants may grow in the interior of the healthy animal as a normal condition,” and a new field has been presented for the investigation of the Cryptogamo-naturalist. [See forthcoming number of the Proceedings.]

October 16th.

MR. PEARSALL in the Chair.

Mr. Cassin read a paper describing some new species of Birds, of the family of Caprimulgidæ, specimens of which are in the collection

**Νυκτοθώρας*.

of the Acad. Nat. Sci. of Philada. Referred to Drs. Wilson and Townsend, and Mr. E. Harris.

October 23d.

Vice President MORTON in the Chair.

A letter was read from Mr. Caspar Parkinson, dated Philadelphia, Oct. 23d, 1849, offering for sale a collection of Marine Shells.

Dr. Leidy made the following observations on the characters and intimate structure of the odoriferous glands of the Invertebrata.

Nature has supplied most or all animals with some means of defence or protection, through which their destruction is rendered limited. The character of such means varies exceedingly, some are encased in hard armour, some are endowed with great muscular strength, some with great rapidity of movement, others trust to their minuteness, some to their color, others feign death, many are furnished with formidable instruments, such as teeth, claws, aculei, &c.; others are supplied with organs which emit an odour so offensive that an aggressor is frequently compelled to leave what otherwise would have been its victim, &c. It is to the last mentioned organs to which I at present wish to direct, for a few moments, the attention of the members: to the organs denominated odoriferous glands of animals. Bodies of this, or of a homologous character, are possessed by nearly all animals, but they are not in all used as a means of defence. They give origin to the odour which appears to be more or less peculiar to each species of animal, and which probably is in some way connected with the sexual instinct. The scent bag of the *Moschus moschiferus* is the homologue of the glandulæ odoriferæ Tysoni of the human prepuce; the tegumentary mucous glands of mollusca, of annelides, of fishes, the tegumentary glands of reptiles, the perspiratory and sebaceous glands of birds, and of mammals, the odoriferous glands of insects, the anal of carnivora, &c., are all probably of a homologous character.

Although varying in the degree of their complexity in different animals, and in the character of their secretion, yet the essential structure is the same throughout. Consisting of tubes or follicles of basement membrane, their complexity depends upon their greater or lesser length, their being simple or compound, straight or more or less convoluted, and isolated or aggregated, in connection with the mode of supplying to them their nutritive fluid.

On the interior these cavities or tubes are covered with a single layer of nucleolo-nucleated organic cells, the true elaborators or manufacturers of the secreted matters of the glandular bodies.

The secreted matter varies exceedingly in its properties in different animals; in odor being found from that of the perspiratory fluid of man, through a great variety of shades, to that most powerful and odious of all odours, the secretion of the anal glands of the *Mephitis Americana*; in consistence from a semi-fluid state to the gaseous fluid of the *Brachinus crepitans*, &c. It is this which constitutes the material contained within the organic cells intermediate to the cell wall and the nucleus.

The cell wall and nucleus are the agents in connection with the organic force which produce or elaborate the contained matter. And, indeed, this is the